Orochi, Gilyak

The social order of this people is peculiar. A council of elders and experienced /107/ people directs the settlement. Everyone is free in his activity, but submits to the community. Every acquisition, every hunting bag is distributed not only among the family but also through the entire settlement. Thus families whose heads go on longer hunting trips and are often away for weeks are taken care of. In the marriage customs there are remnants of group marriage. Faith and superstition are extraordinarily strongly developed. They believe in various gods such as the forest god and the sea god, and they see all of nature animated by spirits. The practical religion, however, is shamanism. The bear is the totem animal. A bear's head is eaten ceremonially and communally in an annual festival. A peculiarity is that a sick person is left when the first signs of death appear, and they return to him only when he is dead. They also avoid the graves of the dead who are buried in the earth, and they also do not disturb the environs of the graves.

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Of the other Tungus peoples there are still living in the Amur region a few Manchu, Daur, and Solon, who immigrated from Manchuria. In Transbaykal there is still to be mentioned the Orochon, who live in the taiga of the Chita region and are hunters primarily. Reindeer breeding is of less importance among them.

Of the Paleoasiatics only the Gilyak remain in the Amur region and the Ainu on Sakhalin. The main part live in the extreme northeast and consist of Chukchee, Koryak, and Kamchadal, and in addition to these still another group, consisting of Eskimo and Aleut, should be mentioned.

The Gilyak live on the lower Amur and on the coast north and south of the Amur's mouth. Their number is estimated at approximately 2,000. In external features they approach the type of the Tungus-Manchu peoples, but their language deviates completely from the dialects of the Tungus-Manchu peoples, and even from the dialects of the other Paleoasiatic peoples, and recalls the idioms of individual Indian tribes of Northwest America. Dog, seal, and fish skins, in particular, are used for the manufacture of clothing. Their main occupation is fishing and hunting sea animals. However, in the winter they also hunt bears and sables. They always build their dwellings on rivers or near the coast, and they always have a summer and a winter house, which are often right next to one another. Even in the last century they used in winter a "subterranean yurt," as Schrenck named it, an earthen cave, such as was customary among the Koryak and Kamchadal until a few decades ago. One can conclude from this that

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